

Serial No. 10/786,139
Attorney Docket No. NVL 3289
Customer No. 35391

Reply to Office Action Dated February 7, 2006
Reply Dated April 12, 2006

AMENDMENTS IN THE DRAWINGS:

One attached drawing sheet includes changes to the "sole FIGURE," i.e., Fig. 1, 1/2 and Replacement Figure have been amended in the newly referenced Fig. 1. The sheet, which includes the newly referenced Fig. 1, replaces the previous replacement sheet including the "sole FIGURE." A second attached drawing sheet includes new Fig. 2. New Fig. 2 illustrates the minesweeper 11 coupled to a tractor 12. No new matter is believed to have been added.

Attachment: Two Replacement Sheets

Serial No. 10/786,139
Attorney Docket No. NVL 3289
Customer No. 35391

Reply to Office Action Dated February 7, 2006
Reply Dated April 12, 2006

REMARKS

Claims 5-10 and 15-20 are pending. Claims 5, 8-9, 15 and 19 have been amended.

I. ALLOWABLE SUBJECT MATTER

The Examiner indicated claims 5-10 and 15-20 were allowed. (See Office Action, pg 3.)

II. CLAIM OBJECTIONS

Claims 9, 15-20 were objected to because of informalities. Claims 5, 8-9, 15 and 19 have been amended to correct the informalities identified by the Examiner with regard to claims 9, 15-16 and 19. Thus, withdrawal of the objections is respectfully requested.

III. DRAWINGS

The drawings were objected to under 37 CFR 1.83(a) for failing to show every feature of the invention specified in the claims. Specifically, a tractor, as recited in claims 10 and 20, was requested to be shown. Accordingly, the Applicant submits a new Fig. 2 which is a schematic illustration of the minesweeper as it would be coupled to and pushed by a tractor. Support for new Fig. 2 can be found, for example, in claims 10 and 20, in the Specification at page 3, line 12 and in the Specification at page 4, line 16. No new matter is believed to have been added. Therefore, withdrawal of the objections is respectfully requested.

IV. AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION

The specification has been amended to incorporate references to replacement Fig. 1 and new Fig. 2. No new matter is believed to have been added. Thus, the Applicant has made a bona fide effort to remove informalities from the specification and place the application in condition for allowance.

Serial No. 10/786,139
Attorney Docket No. NVL 3289
Customer No. 35391

Reply to Office Action Dated February 7, 2006
Reply Dated April 12, 2006

V. CONCLUSION

In light of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that the present application is in condition for allowance and notice to that effect is hereby requested. If it is determined that the application is not in condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to initiate a telephone interview with the undersigned attorney to expedite prosecution of the present invention.

Any fee(s) resulting from this communication is hereby authorized to be charged to our Deposit Account No. 19-2201; Our Order No. NVL 3289.

Respectfully submitted,

Andrew Romero

Andrew Romero, Reg. No. 43,890

Department of the Army
Intellectual Property Section, C-E LCMC Law Division C
10235 Burbeck Road, Bldg 307 Room 108
Ft Belvoir VA 22060-5806

Comm. 703-704-1765, DSN 654
Fax 703-704-2226
Andrew.Romero@nvl.army.mil

M:\patent\Romero\Patent Applications\NVL 3289\Reply to Office Action dated 20706.doc